

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
56th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN DARYL TOEWS**, on March 3, 1999 at 3:03 P.M., in Room 402 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Daryl Toews, Chairman (R)
Sen. Bill Glaser, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Jon Ellingson (D)
Sen. Alvin Ellis (R)
Sen. John Hertel (R)
Sen. Bob Keenan (R)
Sen. Debbie Shea (D)
Sen. Mike Sprague (R)
Sen. Mignon Waterman (D)
Sen. Jack Wells (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Spook Stang (D)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Eddye McClure, Legislative Branch
Janice Soft, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed. The tape was non-functioning and there was no recording.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: HB 220, 2/22/1999; HB 90,
2/22/1999
Executive Action: HB 90 BCIAA

HEARING ON HB 220

Sponsor: REP. JOHN "SAM" ROSE, HD 87, Choteau

Proponents: Colleen Graham, Montana School Boards Association
Hy Rushton, Vaughn School Board, Cascade County
Rick Losloben, Vaughn School Board, Cascade County
Lynda Brannon, Montana Association of School
Business Officials

Opponents: None

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. JOHN "SAM" ROSE, HD 87, Choteau, said **HB 220** covered issues centered around transportation services to a high school district and provided clarity, a consistent process, local control and cooperation between districts. He said the bill didn't prevent parents from taking children to schools of their choice because even if the children couldn't ride the bus, parents could still take them. He then read his opening statement **EXHIBIT (eds48a01)**.

Proponents' Testimony:

Colleen Graham, Montana School Boards Association (MSBA), read her written testimony **EXHIBIT (eds48a02)**.

Hy Rushton, Vaughn School Board, Cascade County, said the bill was needed in his area and expressed support for **HB 220**.

Rick Losloben, Vaughn School Board, Cascade County, echoed the previous testimony.

Lynda Brannon, Montana Association of School Business Officials (MASBO), said MASBO supported **HB 220** as it came out of the House on third reading. She said she hadn't seen the amendments but felt very comfortable that they could support them because **REP. ROSE** supported them.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

SEN. MIGNON WATERMAN, SEN. ALVIN ELLIS and **SEN. JON ELLINGSON** asked questions of **REP. ROSE** and **Colleen Graham**.

SEN. ALVIN ELLIS asked how the bill affected the quality of student education. **Colleen Graham** said it didn't have a negative effect; however, students were best served in their resident district.

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. JOHN "SAM" ROSE thanked everyone for a good hearing and urged the Committee to give **HB 220** approval.

HEARING ON HB 90

Sponsor: **REP. TONI HAGENER, HD 90, Havre**

Proponents: **Madalyn Quinlan, Office of Public Instruction**
Don Waldron, Montana Rural Education Association &
Montana Association of County
Superintendents of Schools
Erik Burke, Governor's Office
Lynda Brannon, Montana Association of School
Business Officials
Loran Frazier, School Administrators of Montana

Opponents: **None**

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. TONI HAGENER, HD 90, Havre, said **HB 90** addressed the issue of anticipating non-levy revenue because school districts were experiencing a decline in oil and gas prices and thus were falling short of their non-levy revenue on which to base their budgets. The fiscal note has no impact on the General Fund because it's included in the executive budget.

Proponents' Testimony:

Madalyn Quinlan, Office of Public Instruction (OPI), read her written testimony **EXHIBIT(eds48a03)** and **EXHIBIT(eds48a04)**.

Don Waldron, Montana Rural Education Association (MREA) and Montana Association of County Superintendents of Schools (MACSS) read his written testimony **EXHIBIT(eds48a05)**.

Erik Burke, Governor's Office, said Baker schools were short 20% of their budget because of reduced taxes on oil and gas; in fact, over 20 districts had a similar problem but not of the same magnitude.

Lynda Brannon, Montana Association of School Business Officials (MASBO), read her written testimony **EXHIBIT(eds48a06)**.

Loran Frazier, School Administrators of Montana (SAM), said he agreed with the previous testimony. They supported the bill.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None.

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. TONI HAGENER urged support for HB 90.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 90

Motion/Vote: SEN. WATERMAN moved that AMENDMENTS HB009001.AEM (EXHIBIT 4) BE CONCURRED IN. Motion carried unanimously 11-0.

Motion/Vote: SEN. WATERMAN moved that HB 90 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously 11-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 3:40 P.M.

SEN. DARYL TOEWS, Chairman

JANICE SOFT, Secretary

DT/JS

EXHIBIT (eds48aad)